



The Ripple



Volume 12, Issue 05

MAY 2020

WELCOME TO APPLE RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Reaching out to our community
with Jesus' love*

*We welcome you and hope you
will visit our church and join us
in worshiping our Lord.*

CHURCH SERVICES

In House Services
Cancelled until further
notice.

Please listen to the
service:

Sundays at 1:00 P.M. on 93.1,
WPCA Radio, Amery



On Facebook



or

www.appleriverchurch.org

The Ripple is also on this site.

Don't Fear

Pastor Justin



Near the end of the book of Matthew, Jesus starts preparing his disciples for the future they are going to face. In Matthew 24, **the disciples are warned of "wars and rumors of wars."** They are told that they are going to be taken away and put to death. Nations will rise against nation and earthquakes and famines will happen all over the place. People will betray each other and false prophets will appear. It feels like as Jesus says this, he is reading my news feed on my computer.

Every time I have the radio on, I hear at least a dozen ads from **companies using the terms, "Unprecedented, crisis, safety, novel, unparalleled, extraordinary."** In the public eye, there is a genuine shock and surprise at what we are facing. People are complaining and drawing sides on the issue. Some consider it to be a hoax or a political stunt about a virus that does nothing. Others are afraid of what the virus could mean for their weakened bodies. Still others are concerned about the danger China has put the world in. And others, out of compassion, struggle to help the families of the 50,000 Americans who have lost their lives.

Wherever you sit on the topic, surprise should not be part of your thinking. Jesus told us it would be this way. Jesus warned us of difficult days. Jesus warned us of trials and troubles. But Jesus also told us at the end of Matthew, that in spite of all of these difficulties we have a task and a promise. The task is as we go into the world, going about our business, we are to make disciples of all people and baptize them into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Church, this is our job in the middle of difficulty. Sometimes, it is an easier task when things are tough.

The second part is a promise. Jesus promised that through all these difficulties, through all these problems and plagues, **HE WOULD BE NEAR US – ALWAYS.** Are you feeling perplexed and lost? Do you have difficulties that are bigger than you can handle? **JESUS IS WITH YOU.** Jesus is willing to walk with you **through these times.** **It doesn't matter what you are going to face. HE IS WITH YOU.**

So, take courage my friends. Don't let your heart be troubled. Greater is He who is with you than the one who is against you.

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Apple River Community Church is to glorify God by helping people to find Jesus and grow to be like him.

OUR AFFILIATION *Apple River Community Church is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America (Forest Lake District).*

CHURCH OFFICERS 2020

PASTOR

Justin Hosking*

VISITATION PASTOR

Bruce Tanner*

CHAIRMAN

Glen Wright

DEACONS

Rod Wetzig

Odrey Rasmussen

Ron Nelson

Dan Smith

Rich Frankson

TRUSTEES

Dan Lundgren

Mike Crim

Steve Wright

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Erin Hosking (Supt.)

Deb Brown (Asst. Supt.)

Denise Luster (Member at Large)

CLERK and SECRETARY

Marie Geist Berhow*

DEACONESS

Judy Nelson

Linda Wetzig

Carol Smith

FINANCIAL

Sue Lundgren*

Joan Talmage*

TREASURER

Mark Powell*

* = Appointed

Thank You!

Thank you to Pastor Justin for putting messages on Facebook and our website. Also, thank you to both Pastor Justin and Lee Elmer for recording the message for WPCA Radio 93.1, which is aired at 1:00 P.M. on Sundays.

“God is not a workaholic”

In *Sabbath as Resistance*, Walter Brueggemann likens our consumerism-driven society to ancient Egypt. Hebrew slaves made bricks for storehouses for the wealth of the upper class, at the top of which sat Pharaoh. Now, as then, the push is always to do more, earn more, make more; we worry there’s not enough time or money. “In this system there can be no Sabbath rest,” says the author.

Yet, at the culmination of creation, “God rested on the seventh day. God did not show up to do more. ... God did not come and check on creation in anxiety to be sure it was all working.” And “because the creator is anxiety-free,” we can be too. “God is not a workaholic,” writes Brueggemann. “God does not keep jacking up production schedules. To the contrary, God rests, confident, serene, at peace.” God’s rest, in turn, gives us — who are created in his image — a “restfulness that contradicts the ‘drivenness’ of Pharaoh’s Egypt and modern society.

Mark Your Calendar:

Give Blood



Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Apple River Community Church
Thursday, June 11 Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS
(1800-733-2767) or visit RedcrossBlood.org
and enter: ARCC to schedule an appointment. (Required)

Special dates in May

- National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2020
- Mother’s Day, May 10, 2020
- Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020
- Victoria Day (Canada), May 18, 2020
- Ascension Day, May 21, 2020
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2020
- Pentecost, May 31, 2020

Other dates in May

Deacon & Exec. Bd. May 12
6:30 pm Deacons
7:30 pm Executive
(Unless cancelled)
Ripple deadline Noon, May 26
(will not be cancelled 😊)



May 25



Financial Training is planned.

Time & date TBA after we are back to “Normal”. Whether young or old, it is never too late to learn more about managing your money.

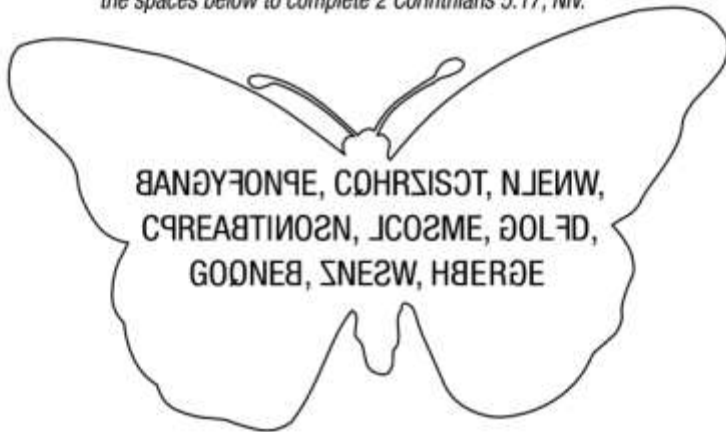
WHITE CROSS CANCELLED IN MAY



Transformation **POWER**

 Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new. 

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:
The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

RENT-A-TEEN

Do you need help with projects? Our youth would like to help and earn money for Bible Camp or Districts!



There are no set fees – you decide your contribution for the project.

May One-Way Club—
CANCELLED



Congratulations to Graduates:
Alice Brown
and
Luke Soldner

Thank You for the offerings received by mail!

We are not physically at church on Sunday mornings, but we still have bills to pay and missionaries to support. You can also give online—Go to www.appleriverchurch.org and click on "GIVE ONLINE" or download the app "easythithe" through your app store to give on the go.

Your Faithful Support is Appreciated and needed.

Answer in Pg. 5 The Bible Quiz, puzzle, cartoons and articles are from NewsletterNewsletter to which we subscribe and have permission to reproduce

Bible Quiz:

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp – **not following "proper" protocols**. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord

Answer: See Page 5



Happy Mother's Day



May Birthdays and Anniversaries

2020

1 Denise Wright
 2 Mike Crim
 3 Glen Jr. & Deb Brown (1997)
 7 Rebecca White
 8 Lydia Weiberg
 9 Ray & Betty Cheshire (1956)
 11 Laverne & Carol Stevens
 15 Dick Berhow

16 Mary Munson
 16 Kris & Autumn Zimmerman
 17 Jenna Lundgren
 17 Bruce & Ginger Tanner (1975)
 20 Henry & Joy Soldner (2000)
 21 Helen Elmer
 23 Darel & Sue Lundgren (1959)

24 Zachary Hosking
 26 Sandra Sias
 28 John & Tiffany Peterson (2003)
 29 Annabelle Zimmerman
 31 Jeremiah Beatham
 31 Erin Hosking
 31 Davy Wolter

May 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Mission Updates — Child Evangelism Fellowship

Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of the Greater St. Croix Valley is a non-profit children's ministry who share the love and hope of Jesus Christ to the boys and girls of the six-county area. This is done through after-school Good News Clubs during the school year and 5-Day Clubs in the summer. In Wisconsin last summer, there were 136 5-Day Clubs, 2,155 children attended and 50 made a salvation decision.

CEF trains willing men and women from area churches to effectively teach children in their neighborhoods, and teens are trained with the leadership skills needed to hold summer clubs to reach children with the Good News of salvation.

CEF's Purpose: Evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ
 Disciple them in the Word of God
 Establish them in the local church for Christian living.

CEF's Mission: To enlist, equip and encourage a team of qualified leaders who will effectively fulfill the purpose of *Child Evangelism Fellowship*, expanding the work throughout our six-county chapter which includes Pierce, Pepin, St. Croix, Dunn, Polk and Barron counties.

Pray and support these ministries. Check out page 6 now to learn how you can support CEF and one of our own.

CAMP UPDATE

2020's Theme is "Share the Hope"

The June 2020 summer programs are suspended and they are putting out a modified July summer camp schedule. This information will be on www.abcamp.org site on April 27.

When bans are lifted on large group gatherings, no travel restrictions are in place, and medical experts determine it is reasonable to gather together for summer camp they will kick off with BASIC Discipleship starting July 5. They will offer Kid's Camp, a week each of Classic Camp, Jr High Camp, and Sr High Camp, as well as Pole & Paddle during the month of July.

Options: If you already enrolled, you can transfer their registration to the Classic Camp 2 session (July 12-17) OR
 If you choose to cancel (no transferr), let them know what to do with your refund.

Refunds:

If you are unable to attend a new session or you no longer wish to attend a session because of the COVID-19 pandemic they are willing to give a full refund (including your non-refundable deposit). However, given the fact they had to cancel the spring and June programming, please consider one of these options:

- 1. Donate:** Instead of taking your refund, make a donation to support the continued work of Arrowhead Bible Camp
- 2. Refund and donate:** Do both. Consider taking a partial refund and making a partial donation. Just let them know the amounts you would like donated and refunded and they will take care of it.
- 3. Full refund:** They are glad to follow their COVID-19 refund policy, where you get the full refund (including deposit).

Please don't hesitate to reach out to them if you have any specific questions: 715.967.2140

This information is from Jeremiah Harder, Executive Director, Arrowhead Bible Camp



To the family of Paul Anderson who went to be with our Lord on April 12. Keep Betty and her family in your prayers.

vi ses senare! (*see you later*)
i himlen (*in heaven*)

Paul, with his wonderful sense of humor, great singing voice, Swedish accent and love for the church will be greatly missed.

Thank You

Thank you to our Church family for all of the support of prayers and cards and memorials for Paul, our loved husband, father and grandfather. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

We are hoping to have a Celebration of his life July 25, whenever our nation is open to being together. We know that Paul is singing with the choir in Heaven, probably in Swedish!!!

God Bless,
Betty Anderson and family

RIPPLE DEADLINE!

The deadline for the June issue is no later than *Noon, May 26!* Please send it to arcc@amerytel.net or put in

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY:

Linda Bibeau's address is now:
P.O. Box 156
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



Answers: QUIZ: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)
Puzzle Pg. 3 anyone, Christ, new, creation,
come, old, gone, new, here

Please Pray for:

- Care and healing for those who contracted the corona virus;
- Safety and protection for those who are vulnerable;
- Peace of mind for all who experience fear or anxiety;
- Pray for protection for those in the medical field, and to find a cure for COVID-19.
- As always, keep our president and leaders in your prayers.



Our Prayer Chains are Active.

If you have a prayer concern, contact Lorraine Aune (715-268-2429) or Deb Brown at debbriel37@gmail.com. Contact them if you want to be added to a prayer chain.

Hospital Calls: If someone is hospitalized, please contact Pastor Justin and/or Pastor Bruce.

The deaconesses also need to know so they can visit, send cards, etc. Our deaconesses are Judy Nelson, Linda Wetzig and Carol Smith.

Remember to keep our members and friends that are on the prayer chain in your prayers. Especially the homebound and those in a facility for Alzheimer's.

God is Nigh

The simple but powerful bugle melody "Taps" has been a standard component of U.S. military funerals since 1891. It's also played during each of the 2,500 military wreath ceremonies conducted every year at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, including those held on Memorial Day.

Many legends exist about the origin of "Taps" – both its melody and its lyrics. The words below, by Horace Lorenzo Trim, make an appropriate bedtime prayer.

Day is done, gone the sun
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky
All is well, safely rest
God is nigh.

Fading light dims the sight
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright
From afar, drawing near
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise for our days
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky
As we go, this we know
God is nigh

CEF Summer Missions:
Alice Brown: Called to Serve

Dear Friends and Family,

Many of you are aware of my involvement with Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc. (CEF), the largest international children’s ministry in history. I served as a Good News Club teacher during the school year for the last three years, and as a full-time summer missionary last year teaching 5-Day Clubs. Praise God! In 2019, 477 children in our chapter received a face-to-face presentation of the gospel!

This year I have been asked to serve in a leadership position as the Summer Coordinator for the CEF chapter of the Greater St. Croix Valley from now through mid-August. I will work with Field Missionary, Bill Stirrat, and our eight summer missionaries. Bill and I have been meeting with other CEF staff in Wisconsin, planning for a very unique summer. Our mission is to reach kids with the gospel whether our 5-Day Clubs are in-person or online. As we plan and test new techniques, we are excited at the potential to reach kids we have not been able to reach before. **God’s plan is perfect!**

I am excited to work with CEF again. I see fruit in 5-Day Clubs and hope you do too! I also feel my talents will be a tool God will use to grow his kingdom, not to mention being able to work with teenagers who will teach the children in our area about the Gospel! I believe this opportunity will help me grow in many different areas, including my confidence, communication skills, planning and responsibility.

Starting today, would you pray **that I would seek God’s will, depending on Him and not on self or man.** Also pray I have the wisdom to fulfill my duties as Summer Coordinator, including learning new technologies.

As I step into God’s calling on my life, I need to raise \$3,000 of support to cover my salary and travel. Praise God, \$1,000 of that total has already been raised! *Will you prayerfully consider partnering with me to help cover the remaining \$2,000?*

There is no tangible value to the growth I will experience or the impact in the lives of the children! Thank you for joining me in reaching them. Thank you, again, for your prayers and support!

Joyfully in His service, Alice Brown

Send Financial gifts to CEF of St. Croix Valley, P. O. Box 358, Clear Lake, WI 54005
www.cefstcroixvalley.com (for tax deduction do NOT put any names on check)

Of patience and pruning

In many parts of America, Mother’s Day is the recommended date for planting flowers outdoors. Subjecting blooms to the elements any sooner is risky, though sunny spring days sure make waiting tough. Perhaps that’s why poet May Sarton calls gardening “an instrument of grace,” for it “slows us down and forces patience.”

Courage is also required. Gardeners “must be brave enough to cut back the old and sit with bare branches, awaiting new growth,” writes Cheryl Richardson (*Waking Up in Winter*). “And we must trust that it will come.” When God prunes us, we too must trust that new growth and new life are in store ... and then patiently wait.

Fed by the Father

God loves his little birds; for all his tender care he shows; a single sparrow cannot fall **but its Creator knows. ...**

God loves each little bird; but still more tender is his care for children who obey his will, than for the fowls of air.

—Anonymous

Debt-free, by grace

Visiting with her passenger, Uber driver Latonya Young mentioned her determination to finish college – and a \$700 debt that barred her from **enrolling in more classes. “Every time I got ready to pay the money, my kids needed something,”** she said later. “I said, ‘Okay, I’ll just wait.’”

To Young’s great surprise, a few days after that Uber conversation, she learned that her customer, Kevin Esch, had paid her debt; she could reenroll! In response, Young persevered to finish her degree with strong **grades. “When he paid the balance, I had to do this for him,”** she said of Esch, who attended her graduation.

Young’s self-sacrifice for her children and Esch’s self-sacrifice for a stranger both pale, of course, in comparison to Jesus’ sacrifice of his very life to save us. Like Young held back by debt, we were captive to sin until “the Son of Man came ... to give his life as a ransom” (Matthew 20:28, ESV). Young did nothing to earn Esch’s gift, and we can do nothing to earn salvation. But as she responded by using the gift to its fullest, we embrace God’s gift by living in thanksgiving and praise, love and service.

To Mask or not to Mask, that is the question...

Hello Church,

I have noticed that we have a wide range of responses to the current condition of our country. There are those in our congregation that are weak and have compromised immune systems. Some of this is caused by age, some by genetics, and some by other difficulties. This contingency of our congregation is trying to be as careful as they can in the middle of this virus outbreak. And for good reason. Wisdom says their bodies may not be able to successfully fight off the virus. They practice very intense quarantine measures, wear masks and practice strict hygiene measures when in private and public.

Others in our congregation do not have any concern about the virus believing it to be no different than the **common cold. They refuse to wear masks and protest the idea of quarantining. It is not that they don't believe they can get sick, but they see a political agenda or social experimenting happening at high levels.** There is a tendency to scoff at the responses of others as they interact with the virus.

One group wants the church to “stand up” and start meeting again. The other group insists that the church stay closed to help keep people safe. I wanted to share a few thoughts with you as we work through this together.

1. This very well might be political.
2. This virus is extremely dangerous for some people.
3. **If church is open, all will want to attend... which could result in death for some.**

Christ has called us to love each other and bear with one another's weaknesses.

I don't see this as a political fight in the church. If we were to get together for even a drive-in service, we wouldn't be able to use the bathrooms, and we shouldn't even get out of our cars. Which some have pointed out, "Why get together then?" If we get together for teaching, worship, evangelism and fellowship, but can't do fellowship... the other items we can do in our homes.

For me, I have a different question, How do we bring the fellowship back together? I am not concerned about the political motives. I am concerned about the people of the church. How do we do this so that our vulnerable do not get sick? How can we institute good hygiene so we can meet again? How can we put aside our personal preferences and help with those who might die from this? Would you be willing to wear a mask if you were going into a hospital to see a sick person? Would you do that in your church to love those who Jesus loves? Would you be willing to disinfect the bathroom after you use it? Would you be willing to serve coffee and donuts with gloves on? Or eat them with gloves on?

Covid, influenza, common cold, whatever it might be, we need to consider how we can help protect others within our body.

Justin

These Not-So-Ordinary Times

*By Stella McDowell
(Used with permission)*

One evening this week I went for a walk and noticed:
The Master Artist still paints a new sunset for each day.
The birds still sang their familiar evening songs.
Children still laugh and play behind the walls of backyards.
And the weeds still grow no matter how hard I work to eliminate them.

During these weeks of social distancing I was reminded:
While we still live in a fallen world of weeds and plagues.
Life, even spiritual life, is born or is growing often where we do not see it.
Birds still sing because their Provider, and ours, has not changed
And above us, the Master Artist still has a "something better" prepared for us.
Life though, is not ordinary right now and that hurts.
We struggle with uncertainty and strangeness.
But God is still above and beyond ordinary, just as He always has been.
"Lord, help me focus on how great, how good and how present You are.
As I trust You during these not so ordinary days. Amen."

Harried

*By Stella McDowell
(Used with permission)*

I'm harried here, I'm harried there.
I check the clock, no time to spare.
I grab my last clean pants to wear.
It's time to leave I do declare
I have no time to fix my hair.

Why do I live in disrepair?
Why don't I learn to just prepare?
And start the day with sunrise air
And make the time for praise and prayer.
Then days like this might be more rare
And I'd have time to fix my hair.



A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

Answer: up, night, food, family, children, up, call

Perhaps you have a recipe you would like to share for next month. Please send it to me at arcc@amerytel.net.

I have lots of these 'Puzzles' and other fill-ins, but the Ripple would be just as good or better with input from you.

When it comes to readings, etc. we must be careful of plagiarism. The two poems on page 7 are from the editor's cousin and used with her permission.

Marie Geist Berhow

Some extra activities, since you may have some time on your hands, and we may as well fill out this blank page.

Enjoy!



Our mother's instructions

God gives us parents to help us learn about following his ways. Cherishing our mothers means valuing their guidance.

Use the boxed word codes below to complete Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV.

- _____
 walk speak fathers sleep keep always
 guide awake son forsake teaching
 around heart neck mothers fasten watch

"My _____ your _____'s command
 and do not _____ your _____'s _____.
 Bind them _____ on your _____;
 _____ them _____ your _____.
 When you _____, they will _____ you;
 when you _____, they will _____ over you;
 when you _____, they will _____ to you."

Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV

Answers: "My son, keep your father's command and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind them always on your heart; fasten them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you."
 Proverbs 6:20-22, NIV